

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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EDITOR

Fewer Births in 1931

DECREASE GREATEST AMONG FOREIGN-BORN—PERCENTAGE OF WHITE BIRTHS INCREASES

There were 2829 fewer births registered in California in 1931 than during the year 1930. There were 1812 fewer births among the foreign-born. The greatest decrease occurred among Mexicans, there having been 1586 fewer births among people of this race. This leaves a total loss of but 1017 births among white residents.

There were 180 fewer Japanese births in 1931, 15 fewer Chinese births, 1586 fewer Mexican births, and 31 fewer births among people of other foreign races. The total number of Mexican births in 1930 was 14,472 and in 1931 there were 12,886 such births. In 1930 Mexican births constituted 17.2 per cent of the total births that occurred within the State. In 1931 Mexican births constituted 15.8 per cent of the total births, a decrease of 1.4 per cent. There were 2220 Japanese births in 1930, 2.6 per cent of the total. In 1931 there were 2040 Japanese births, 2.5 per cent of the total. The only increased numbers of births among people of races other than white occurred among the Negroes, among whom there were 1159 births in 1931, as compared with 1110 such births in 1930, an increase of 49 births.

There is significance in the fact that nearly 65 per cent of the decrease in births last year was among the foreign-born. The United States Commissioner of Immigration, in his report for the year ending June 30, 1931, stated: "From numerous sources it has been

reported that the departure of Mexicans to their home country in the past year, of which we have no complete records, has reached large proportions." It is presumed that the return of large numbers of Mexicans to their home country is in a large measure responsible for the decrease in the number of births that occurred in California last year. The economic depression may be another factor in bringing about this reduction, but an even greater cause may be a biological factor which is impossible to analyze. Lower birth rates prevail throughout the country.

There were 84,382 births registered in California in 1930 and 81,553 in 1931. In 1930, 77.1 per cent of all births were white and in 1931 78.5 per cent of all births were those of white infants. In spite of the reduced number of births, several sections of the State show increases. The central coast counties—San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo—all show increased numbers of births last year. Some of the counties in the northern portion of the State show increased numbers of births last year. These are Contra Costa, Marin, Solano, Lake, Sutter, Placer, Nevada, Butte, Glenn, Shasta and Modoc. Increases are also noted in Stanislaus, Mariposa and Mono counties. Increases are also noted in Riverside and Imperial counties. All other counties of the State registered fewer births in 1931 than in 1930. Some of the most conspicuous decreases occurred in the larger centers of population.

It would appear that, in those agricultural sections of the State where there has been little movement of the population and where economic conditions have not been changed radically through lack of employment, normal growth of the population, through births, has occurred. In many counties where itinerant agricultural labor heretofore has been employed extensively, fewer births were recorded.

Some cities of the State showed increased numbers of births, but these increases may be due to the large numbers of births that occurred in maternity hospitals, where women from the rural districts of the county have gone for their confinements. Increases are most conspicuous in some of the smaller cities of the State, rather than in the large municipalities, with the single exception of Oakland, which showed an increase of 8 births over 1930. Among other cities where more births occurred in 1931 than in 1930 are the following:

	Increase		Increase
Chico	10	San Luis Obispo	11
Brawley	16	San Mateo	22
El Centro	3	San Jose	35
Glendale	11	Palo Alto	15
Monrovia	1	Santa Cruz	3
San Rafael	14	Watsonville	2
Anaheim	44	Vallejo	3
San Bernardino	6	Santa Rosa	5
Ontario	14	Modesto	71

Of the total births registered in 1931, 41,992 were males and 39,561 were females. This represents a ratio of 106 males to 100 females.

Births by Race

	1930		1931	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Totals	81,553	100	84,382	100
White	64,009	78.5	65,075	77.1
Negro	1,159	1.4	1,110	1.3
Indian	329	0.4	329	.4
Chinese	792	1.0	807	1.0
Japanese	2,040	2.5	2,220	2.6
Other	338	0.4	369	.4
Mexican	12,886	15.8	14,472	17.2

Births by Months

	1931	1930
Totals	81,553	84,382
January	6,774	7,351
February	6,230	6,434
March	6,888	7,271
April	6,329	6,759
May	7,048	6,912
June	6,986	6,999
July	7,253	7,543
August	7,092	7,106
September	6,800	7,107
October	6,891	7,035
November	6,435	6,633
December	6,827	7,232

Births by Counties

	1931	1930
California	81,553	84,382
Alameda	5,826	6,011

	1931	1930
Alpine	1	1
Amador	73	84
Butte	605	587
Calaveras	42	55
Colusa	149	174
Contra Costa	1,051	1,045
Del Norte	55	55
El Dorado	98	105
Fresno	2,404	2,580
Glenn	144	125
Humboldt	641	695
Imperial	1,678	1,608
Inyo	98	118
Kern	1,463	1,653
Kings	440	496
Lake	68	66
Lassen	238	267
Los Angeles	31,565	33,008
Madera	355	381
Marin	297	272
Mariposa	33	28
Mendocino	257	271
Merced	665	676
Modoc	102	99
Mono	14	10
Monterey	877	832
Napa	252	286
Nevada	110	82
Orange	1,884	1,957
Placer	346	330
Plumas	83	105
Riverside	1,449	1,423
Sacramento	2,235	2,319
San Benito	171	178
San Bernardino	2,348	2,380
San Diego	3,111	3,249
San Francisco	7,646	7,905
San Joaquin	1,554	1,604
San Luis Obispo	436	427
San Mateo	689	664
Santa Barbara	1,103	1,212
Santa Clara	2,121	1,983
Santa Cruz	537	528
Shasta	188	166
Sierra	15	22
Siskiyou	362	417
Solano	375	373
Sonoma	689	694
Stanislaus	1,607	1,025
Sutter	156	142
Tehama	212	226
Trinity	11	22
Tulare	1,429	1,527
Tuolumne	117	133
Ventura	1,157	1,196
Yolo	269	328
Yuba	192	217

OYSTER BED CERTIFICATES CANCELED

Due to changes in ownership the following certificates to growers of oysters have been canceled:

Certificate No. 1, granted April 3, 1926, to Lorin Kenney, San Francisco, for beds in Tomales Bay, between Blake's Landing and Simpson Ranch; area about five acres.

Certificate No. 5, granted November 14, 1931, to the National Oyster Co., Ltd., San Francisco, for beds off South San Francisco, between San Bruno and Sierra Points; about 350 acres.

Rigorous law is often rigorous injustice.—Terence.

MARRIAGES DECREASE IN 1931**Sharpest Decreases in Large Centers of Population
Gains Recorded in Nineteen Counties**

There were 2629 fewer marriages performed in California in 1931 than in 1930. There were 47,525 marriages recorded in California in 1931, as compared with 50,154 marriages recorded in 1930. Sharp decreases occurred in the counties having large populations. Los Angeles County showed a decrease of 1640 marriages last year and San Francisco recorded 392 fewer marriages. Decreases in Alameda and San Diego counties were 177 and 178, respectively. Fresno County had 110 fewer marriages registered last year than were registered in 1930.

In 19 California counties, however, increased numbers of marriages were performed in 1931. Generally speaking, more marriages were performed in the counties which are typically agricultural. These counties are as follows:

County—	1931	1930
Amador	35	29
Contra Costa	546	516
Mariposa	28	24
Mono	6	4
Monterey	541	483
Orange	3,688	3,468
Placer	117	107
Riverside	1,250	1,197
San Benito	149	142
San Bernardino	1,114	1,105
Santa Barbara	682	681
Santa Clara	1,433	1,407
Shasta	63	62
Solano	258	251
Sonoma	475	425
Tehama	63	60
Tulare	588	550
Ventura	952	896
Yolo	118	98

June, proverbially, is the month for marriages and June of 1931 was no exception, as there were 5915 marriages performed during that month—more than during any other single month of the year. Furthermore, in June of 1931, there were 26 more marriages performed than were performed during June of 1930. January and April also showed increases over corresponding months of the preceding year. The sharpest declines in numbers of marriages performed were in October, November and December. Following are the numbers of marriages performed in California in 1930 and 1931 by counties:

County—	1931	1930
Alameda	3,314	3,491
Alpine	1	1
Amador	35	29
Butte	155	187
Calaveras	10	17
Colusa	30	41
Contra Costa	546	516
Del Norte	31	34
El Dorado	25	31
Fresno	985	1,095

County—	1931	1930
Glenn	39	53
Humboldt	176	244
Imperial	216	261
Inyo	27	38
Kern	571	685
Kings	241	278
Lake	48	51
Lassen	32	33
Los Angeles	17,260	18,900
Madera	151	158
Marin	313	365
Mariposa	28	24
Mendocino	115	128
Merced	286	290
Modoc	15	30
Mono	6	4
Monterey	541	483
Napa	224	251
Nevada	33	44
Orange	3,688	3,468
Placer	117	107
Plumas	8	11
Riverside	1,250	1,197
Sacramento	954	970
San Benito	149	142
San Bernardino	1,114	1,105
San Diego	1,772	1,950
San Francisco	5,507	5,899
San Joaquin	670	734
San Luis Obispo	278	320
San Mateo	932	935
Santa Barbara	682	681
Santa Clara	1,433	1,407
Santa Cruz	399	413
Shasta	63	62
Sierra	1	2
Siskiyou	71	81
Solano	258	251
Sonoma	475	425
Stanislaus	360	429
Sutter	43	46
Tehama	63	60
Trinity	11	11
Tulare	588	550
Tuolumne	47	57
Ventura	952	896
Yolo	118	98
Yuba	68	85

MORBIDITY***Diphtheria.**

68 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, San Leandro 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 3, Los Angeles county 7, Glendale 3, Los Angeles 33, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Orange 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 2, Sutter County 5.

Scarlet Fever.

151 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, Fresno County 8, Fresno 6, Orland 1, Arcata 1, Imperial 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 20, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 48, Pomona 1, South Pasadena 3, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 2, Bell 1, Gardena 1, San Anselmo 1, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Tustin 1, Hemet 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 10, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 1, Vallejo 2, Yuba City 2, Tulare County 1, Visalia 1, Davis 1, Marysville 3.

Measles.

420 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 1, Oakland 2, Piedmont 1, San

* From reports received on February 29th and March 1st for week ending February 27th.

Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 54, Humboldt County 10, Arcata 1, Eureka 1, Los Angeles County 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Madera 3, Marin County 13, Sausalito 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 2, Carmel 1, Monterey 1, Fullerton 1, Sacramento 136, San Diego 2, San Francisco 85, San Joaquin County 13, Lodi 15, Stockton 7, Santa Barbara County 26, Lompoc 14, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 3, Siskiyou County 2, Etna 2, Sonoma County 2, Cloverdale 11, Ventura 1.

Smallpox.

15 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Huntington Park 2, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 1, San Luis Obispo County 1.

Typhoid Fever.

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 2, San Francisco 3, Yolo County 1, California 1.**

Whooping Cough.

207 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Berkeley 3, Oakland 19, Piedmont 4, Contra Costa County 7, Richmond 2, Fresno County 1, Eureka 7, Imperial 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 13, Glendale, 2, Inglewood 4, La Verne 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 22, Monrovia 3, Pasadena 4, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 2, Whittier 3, Lynwood 3, South Gate 2, San Anselmo 2, Santa Ana 5, Riverside 1, Sacramento 8, San Bernardino County 3, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 5, National City 3, San Diego 4, San Francisco 13, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 11, San Luis Obispo County 12, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 5, Santa Maria 6, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 2, Willow Glen 1, Cloverdale 2, Sonoma 4.

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1, Santa Barbara 1.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Compton 1, Los Angeles 1, Monterey County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

One case of epidemic encephalitis from San Diego has been reported.

Trichinosis

One case of trichinosis from San Francisco has been reported.

Jaundice (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic jaundice from Siskiyou County have been reported.

Food Poisoning.

One case of food poisoning from San Francisco has been reported.

Undulant Fever.

3 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Santa Ana 1, San Bernardino 1, San Jose 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

One case of coccidioidal granuloma from San Deigo has been reported.

Septic Sore Throat.

One case of septic sore throat from Santa Barbara has been reported.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1932				1931			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Feb. 27 received by Mar. 1	Week ending			Reports for week ending Feb. 28 received by Mar. 3
	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20		Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	
Actinomycosis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Anthrax	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	650	809	838	955	678	686	747	579
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	81	69	57	68	51	56	54	57
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	2
Dysentery (Bacillary)	3	0	0	1	3	2	5	3
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Erysipelas	23	18	25	18	22	25	29	31
Food Poisoning	40	2	8	1	0	4	3	4
German Measles	9	9	26	11	15	18	22	34
Gonococcus Infection	122	184	127	124	144	191	166	145
Hookworm	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	311	375	327	236	254	308	512	555
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1
Leprosy	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Malaria	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Measles	387	397	430	420	765	991	1,049	939
Meningitis (Epidemic)	3	5	11	5	9	9	5	6
Mumps	78	103	224	154	280	286	315	323
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Pellagra	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia (Lobar)	105	103	138	62	81	68	45	63
Poliomyelitis	3	2	3	3	9	6	6	3
Psittacosis	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rabies (Animal)	6	9	11	12	23	22	14	18
Scarlet Fever	147	133	148	151	141	155	124	120
Septic Sore Throat	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	2
Smallpox	6	9	20	15	74	66	70	45
Syphilis	172	233	209	147	232	248	245	185
Tetanus	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0
Trachoma	3	2	2	3	13	2	4	0
Trichinosis	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1
Tuberculosis	245	183	246	173	288	235	197	184
Typhoid Fever	4	7	6	8	18	15	9	5
Undulant Fever	0	3	0	3	2	1	0	3
Whooping Cough	127	158	201	207	174	170	204	195
Totals	2,534	2,819	3,067	2,792	3,287	3,570	3,835	3,505

Influenza has receded.

Diphtheria remains at about the same level.

Chickenpox shows an increase.

Health conditions generally are good.